

COMMITMENT



Texas Department of Health
Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program

December 1999

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Lack of Insurance May Play Role in Late Stage Diagnoses

Texas leads the nation with a quarter of its population lacking health insurance. Those more likely to lack health insurance continue to include young adults in the 18 to 24 year old age group, people with lower levels of education, Hispanics, those who work part time and people who were born in another country.

According to the Census Bureau, the survey found that the number of people without coverage grew by nearly a million. This is the highest rate in a decade.

The number of women in the U.S. without insurance grew by 947,000 to 21.3 million. Among Hispanics, 35.3 percent lack health insurance.

A recent study by a researcher at the University of South Florida suggests that lack of health insurance drastically increases the chance of being diagnosed with late-

stage cancer. A key factor in treating some cancers successfully is detecting the disease early.

In the study, published in the Journal of the National Cancer Institute (Vol. 91, No. 16), Richard G. Roetzheim, M.D. and colleagues reviewed records of 28,237 Florida patients diagnosed with colorectal, breast, or prostate cancer, or melanoma in 1994. Their review suggests patients who were uninsured or who were insured by Medicaid were more likely to be diagnosed with late-stage cancers than patients covered by private insurance plans.

The study also found that race plays a significant role in late-stage

diagnoses. Non-Hispanic, African Americans were more likely to be diagnosed with late-stage breast and prostate cancers than non-Hispanic whites. Hispanic patients were more likely to be diagnosed with late-stage breast cancer. These racial disparities seem to hold true regardless of insurance coverage.

“Lower-income populations and certain minority groups are at greater risk for late-stage detection of cancer,” said Charles Jackson, director of collaborative programs and advocacy for special populations for the American Cancer Society. “We are calling for

[Insurance continued on page 3](#)

FY2000 Screening Funds Limited

Screening and diagnostic funds for the current year (September 1, 1999 - August 31, 2000) are limited. The Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program (BCCCP) received level funding for the current year. Other priorities, such as case management and rescreening have had an impact on the amount of funding available for screening. This means that unless additional federal funds are allocated

to the BCCCP, **no additional funds will be available at mid-year.**

Providers must monitor funds to ensure that sufficient resources are reserved for required rescreening and diagnostic services. The Program will request additional funds from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Please call Robert Reeves, Program Administrator or Kathy Kokel, Contract Specialist, at (800) 452-1955 if you have any questions about funding.

In This Issue...

Lack of Insurance	1
Screening Funds	1
BCCCP Briefs	2
Milestone Awards	2
Case Management Policy	2
Ask The Expert	3
New Forms	3
Materials Available	3
Calendar of Events	4
BCCCP Statistics	4
Clinical Update	Insert

BCCCP Briefs

Training

The Nurse Oncology Education Program (NOEP) is funded by BCCCP to provide breast and cervical cancer education to nurses throughout the state. Courses are scheduled for the following times and locations:

February 11 - Brownsville
March 3 - Texarkana
April 15 - Wichita Falls

Call NOEP at (800) 515-6770 for more information and registration.



Who to Call & How to Reach Us...

General Information/Administration:

Margaret Méndez Robert Reeves
 Lisa Bishop Rhonnda Jones
 Christina Rogers Cathy Cox

Professional Education, Clinical Services, Case Management:

Karen Knox Karen McAnarney
 Claudia Himes

Public Information and Outreach:

Stephen Wright Andrea Littlefield

Data Collection and Maintenance:

Vincent Crawley Codie Prinz
 Wanda Gibson Steve Johnson
 June Browning Constance Holloway

Data Collection Forms

Wanda Gibson

Cancer Epidemiology/Demographics:

Vacant

Billing:

Kathy Kokel Codie Prinz

Texas Department of Health
 Breast & Cervical Cancer Control Program
 1100 West 49th Street, G407
 Austin, TX 78756-3199
 (512) 458-7644
 (800) 452-1955
 (512) 458-7650 FAX
 email: margaret.mendez (or other staff first name, period and last name)@tdh.state.tx.us

Website Address

<http://www.tdh.state.tx.us/bcccp/>

Local Changes

Please write or call Rhonnda Jones, Administrative Technician, at (800) 452-1955 with **ANY** changes in local telephone numbers, personnel or service delivery sites. *Thank you.*

Changes in Case Management Policy

Case management for the Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program (BCCCP) will see many changes in the coming year. For the first time, the national program has issued a policy on case management, due to its inclusion in Public Law 105-340. The policy states that the goal of case management is to ensure that women enrolled in the program receive timely and appropriate follow-up, rescreening, diagnosis, and treatment. As with funding for any program or program component, evaluation becomes a part of the

implementation. BCCCP will now incorporate new case management indicators for both breast and cervical screening. The indicators include:

1. Percentage of abnormal mammograms/CBE's or abnormal Pap tests with a completed diagnosis
2. Median days between abnormal screening and diagnosis
3. Median days between diagnosis and treatment
4. Percentage of cancer cases with treatment initiated

Case Management continued on 3

Milestone Awards Announced

The Milestone Award is presented quarterly to providers in recognition of exceptional program performance. The criteria for the award varies from data indicator statistics to creative outreach efforts.

Beginning in the year 2000, awards will be based on the quarterly reports. Providers are grouped by size (small, medium,

large) according to the number of clients they serve. An award is given to a provider in each group, therefore, three awards are presented each quarter.

In addition to this year's awards, the state office recognizes providers that have demonstrated a high rescreening rate during the past year. The winners were selected among the attendees of each fall training site.

Training Site

Winner

Austin
 Corpus Christi
 Galveston
 Fort Worth

Barrio Comprehensive Family Health Care
 Corpus Christi-Nueces County Health Department
 Jasper-Newton County Public Health Department
 YWCA of Abilene

Mission

The mission of the Texas Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program is to reduce the impact of breast and cervical cancer in Texas by promoting access to quality information, screening, diagnosis and treatment in Texas communities.

Goal

The goal of the Texas Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program is to reduce premature mortality from breast cancer and cervical cancer in Texas.

Ask the Expert

Don't forget, you can submit your own questions on any subject related to the program such as nursing, case management, billing, data or outreach. Send questions to Andrea Littlefield, Information Specialist, 1100 West 49th Street, Austin, TX 78756-3199.



What is "A = 2000"?



ANY new client enrolled in the Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program (BCCCP) on or after January 1, 2000 will need a CD number which includes an "A" in the first position and a "0" in the second position of the calendar year spaces of their CD number. The "A" represents the new millennium and the "0" represents the first year of the millennium.

BCCCP Introduces New Forms for New Year

All Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program (BCCCP) providers should have been contacted about receiving Year 2000 data forms. These forms should be used beginning January 1, 2000. Any program services that are performed on or after January 1, 2000 should be reported on the new data forms.

As of January 1, 2000, old data forms should be discarded.

Please note that due to the revised information needed on the new year 2000 data forms, any forms submitted on the old forms will be returned to the provider for transfer onto a new form. If you have any questions regarding the new forms or your shipment of forms, contact Wanda Gibson, Public Health Technician, at (800) 452-1955.

Lack of Insurance Plays Role in Late-Stage Diagnoses

continued from page 1

increased research into race to get to the bottom of these disparities and to develop strategies to address this need."

The Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program (BCCCP) is currently participating in the University of Texas School of Nursing's (UTSON) African American Breast Cancer Outreach (AABCO) initiative. The goal of AABCO is to

educate and screen more African American women in Houston, Dallas and Tyler. BCCCP hopes to improve the numbers of African American women seen through the program through outreach designed specifically for the population.

Reference:

American Cancer Society, NewsToday, October 21, 1999, online at <http://www2.cancer.org>

Public Education Materials Available

The Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program (BCCCP) has several public education materials available to providers.

BCCCP has thousands of the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation's brochure Breast Health and You. The brochures are available in English and Spanish. There are also some remaining placemats (English and Spanish) and greeting cards (Spanish only).

Quantities of some items are limited. Providers are encouraged to contact Andrea Littlefield, Information Specialist, at (800) 452-1955 to order materials.

Changes in Case Management Policy

continued from page 2

Data to assist providers in meeting program objectives is mailed monthly and quarterly to BCCCP providers. The quarterly indicators will begin including information reflecting outcomes related to the case management process.

Some BCCCP providers receive additional funding for case management staff serving a regional or geographic area. These providers will begin with a baseline of the above data indicators. The national program policy recognizes case management in the program, as well

continued on page 4

Changes in Case Management Policy

continued from page 2

as at the client level. The impact at the program level can be reflected in terms of the numbers of new resources developed for clients or in the amount of donated professional inkind goods or services. Inkind donations are an especially good indicator in that they reflect what a community is giving back to its people. Case managers can often show health care professionals how

they can contribute to the care of their community. In these situations, both the client and the community win, and case management funding is maximized.

For more information on case management policies or indicators, contact Karen Knox, Case Management Coordinator at, (800) 452-1955.

Happy Holidays from staff of the Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program



Important Dates

December

December 1 - 3 - Minority Health Conference, Houston
December 24 - Christmas Eve Day
State Office Closed
Distribution of new data forms

January

Implementation of new data forms and CD numbers
January 17 - Martin Luther King Jr. Day - State Office Closed
January 19 - Confederate Heroes Day - Skeleton Crew at State Office
January 25 - Train The Trainer - Austin

February

February 11 - NOEP Training, Brownsville
February 21 - Presidents' Day
State Office Closed

March

March 2 - Texas Independence Day
Skeleton Crew at State Office
March 3 - NOEP Training, Texarkana

Texas BCCCP*

Women Served:
116,863

Breast Screenings:
147,390

Cervical Screenings:
108,600

Breast Cancers:
763

Cervical Carcinoma in situ:
1613

Invasive Cervical Cancer:
57

*As of November 15, 1999

Commitment

A monthly bulletin

Send news/information to:

**Texas Department of Health
Breast & Cervical Cancer Control Program**

1100 West 49th Street

Austin, TX 78756-3199

Telephone: (800) 452-1955

Fax: (512) 458-7650

Email: andrea.littlefield@tdh.state.tx.us

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED